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UM to unveil contextualization plaques



FILE PHOTO: LOGAN CONNER

After a group appointed by Interim Chancellor Morris Stocks drafted the wording for the contextualization plaque for the Confederate soldier statue in the Circle in fall 2015, the plaque was erected in March 2016. That same month, Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter created the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee for History and Context. The six new plaques that will be unveiled in March will look similar to the one pictured above.

MAKAIL JOHANNESSON
STAFF WRITER

After several years of contextualization efforts, the university will unveil new plaques at six locations in an attempt to recognize what many community members see as troublesome reminders of history embedded in several structures on the Oxford campus. The plaques will be revealed during a ceremony on campus March 2.

The contextualization plaques will be placed at Barnard Observatory, Lamar Hall, Longstreet Hall, George Hall, in addition to a plaque recognizing the university’s enslaved laborers in the constructions of Barnard Observatory, Croft, the Lyceum and Hilgard Cut. Chancellor Vitter also accepted an additional recommendation to add a contextualization plaque for the stained glass Tiffany windows in Ventress Hall. The windows recognize the University Greys, a group of Ole Miss students

who left the university in 1861 to serve in the Civil War. This plaque will also be included in the March event. The locations and text for the plaques were decided on by the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee for History and Context, a group created in April 2016 to recognize sites for contextualization and create content for the plaques. A separate Contextualization Ceremony Committee had its first official

SEE **CONTEXTUALIZATION** PAGE 3

Campus prepares for flu season

JACQUELINE KNIRNSCHILD
STAFF WRITER

The semester is off to a wintery start with temperatures plummeting to the teens, frost coating car windows in the mornings and, unfortunately, stuffy noses, muscle aches and feverish chills. Cold weather and the flu are encapsulating the nation this January – according to an update published five days ago by the Center for Disease Control, all states except Hawaii are experiencing “widespread” flu activity. Thirty-two states – including Mississippi – have reported “high” influenza activity. Director of University Health Services Travis Yates said the Health Center has seen an “up-tick” in students with flu-like symptoms. However, he said such an increase is to be expected after the student body returned for spring classes. “This flu season has not been unusual to this point – however, we are not even a full week into spring semester yet,” Yates said. “If we follow the current national trend, I anticipate a significant increase in our students

SEE **FLU** PAGE 3

Community reacts to extension of Square bar hours

JORDAN HOLMAN
STAFF WRITER

As of this week, Ole Miss students now have an extra hour out on the Square on weeknights. A new policy was enacted earlier this month allowing bars in Oxford to stay open until 1 a.m. every night of the week except Sundays, when they will close at 9 p.m. Business hours at popular locations such as The Levee, Funky’s Pizza and Daiquiri Bar and Round Table on the Square have been changed to reflect the

new law accordingly. “The main reason for the city to extend bar hours is to maintain consistency across the board,” said Capt. Hildon Sessums of the Oxford Police Department. “Instead of hours fluctuating between midnight and 1 a.m. depending upon whether it is a weeknight or weekend or game night, the bars will always be open until 1 a.m.” The Oxford Board of Aldermen and Mayor Robyn Tannehill passed the new policy in early December with no dissent and little discussion. All agreed

this policy makes the most sense and will boost the economy. “There’s a huge popular demand to make the bar hours consistent,” Ben Salvador, a senior social work major, said. “Students want to not only stay out later but also want to have to check what times the bars are open less. And, of course, the bar owners want to make more money by staying open an hour later.” Steve Delcid, a bartender at The Summit Lodge Bar, said he is excited about the financial

SEE **BARS** PAGE 3



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

People wait in line at Rooster’s on the Square on Wednesday night.

IN THIS ISSUE...

OPINION
Challenging ASB gun proposal
A letter explains why a concealed carry permit proposal is ‘nothing short of dangerous’
PAGE 2

LIFESTYLES
Hungry for equality
Every third Friday, Rebel Market hosts famished feminists of the Ole Miss community
PAGE 4

LIFESTYLES
First week of school
Find out what Ole Miss students had to say about the first week of spring semester
PAGE 4

SPORTS
Everything is bigger in Texas
Rebels travel to Austin for bout with Texas and 6-foot-11-inch pro prospect Mo Bamba
PAGE 8

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I found a proposal from the article, “Associated Student Body Senate discusses spring legislation goals” published in The DM on Jan. 24, to be appalling. According to the piece, “Sen. Coco McDonnell, chairwoman of the External Affairs Committee, said she plans to possibly introduce legislation that would ... allow students to have concealed carry permits for firearms.”

I campaigned against a similar proposal in my home state of Arkansas, and I am against this proposal on our campus for the exact same reasons. On a college campus where civil disagreements in the classroom, dorm room and football stadium can easily boil over, would allowing the presence of lethal weapon make us safer? I argue no.

As seen in the aftermath of the recent school shooting in Kentucky, gun violence has become an epidemic in the United States, but concealed weapons on campus will not make us safer. The Clarion Ledger reports that Mississippi’s gun laws, including requirements for concealed carry permits, are “among the most permissive in the country.” And according to a Violence Policy Center database, concealed carry permit holders across the country have killed 1,119 people since May 2007.

Even if we are to believe the “good guy with a gun” myth, the 2017 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report listed no

on-campus robberies, murders or negligent manslaughter reported to UPD in 2016. Even considering the other reported on-campus crimes, aren’t the resources of an armed campus police force more than adequate?

This threat of gun violence has already affected our community. Some may recall the arrest of two members of the Klu Klux Klan during 2015’s “Take Down the Flag” rally. Both men, who had guns in a parked car on campus, later faced federal weapons charges. Under this proposal, from my understanding, students of a similar ideological bent with a Mississippi concealed carry permit would not have faced such charges. If this proposal reaches debate, this is a point I would like Sen. McDonnell to fully address.

To conclude, this proposed legislation is nothing short of dangerous. Not only will it place students at risk, but it also threatens the safety of our university’s faculty, service workers, police and various visitors. I implore the members of the External Affairs Committee, as well as other concerned students, to resist any form of concealed carry legislation introduced through the Associated Student Body.

Dalton Huerkamp is a public policy leadership major from Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

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MISSISSIPPIAN

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The Daily Mississippian welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be e-mailed to dmletters@olemiss.edu.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



MISSISSIPPI
press
ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

FLU

continued from page 1

presenting with influenza over the next few weeks.”

Yates said there has also been an increase in flu vaccines this week, but once again, such a trend is normal at the start of a new semester. But even though more students are getting the flu shot, “the immunization rate remains well below optimal levels,” Yates said.

Liz Charlot, director of communications for the Mississippi State Department of Health, said this year’s flu season started a month earlier than usual in the state and she strongly urges college students to get vaccinated.

“We are in peak season, and it’s not too late to get a flu shot – especially students,” Charlot said. “The strain going around now is nasty.”

According to the CDC, the most frequently identified influenza virus subtype reported by public health laboratories was H3N2, which is the most dangerous of the four seasonal strains.

“The flu shot – two weeks to



FILE PHOTO: WILSON BENTON

Pharmacy students give students flu shots last semester in the Circle.

immunize – can really prevent hospitalizations, complications and death,” Charlot said. “Healthy people do die from the flu from complications.”

A study by the CDC from Jan. 7 to 13 reported a national cumulative rate of 31.5 laboratory-confirmed flu-associated hospitalizations per

100,000 people.

Charlot said that although there’s nothing unusual about this flu season, she advises college students to avoid the classroom if they show symptoms.

“If you’ve got symptoms like cough, runny nose, body aches, fever, you need to go to your infirmary to get vaccinated,”

Charlot said. “You need to be treated and stay in so you’re not contagious.”

The cold weather isn’t necessarily what’s causing the flu, Charlot said, but low temperatures tend to cause people to spend more time inside, where they’re more likely to catch germs from others.

BARS

continued from page 1

gains that may come from the extra hour.

“As a bartender, I welcome an opportunity to work an extra hour and make more in tips,” Delcid said. “Though I haven’t worked until 1 yet, as Monday we closed up early when attendance slowed down around midnight.”

Lee Harris, the owner of Funky’s, also says his business has not been abnormally busy on weeknights so far, tapering off at midnight like usual.

“I expect that will change this weekend, however,” Harris said. “I think on Saturday we’ll have people stay to the end and make more in tips and revenue.”

He does not expect to see any negatives come from this new policy, with which Sessums agrees.

“The only thing this policy will affect is the bars will be letting out a little later,” Sessums said. “I do not expect to see a rise in crime or DUIs.”

While Sessums does not expect to see a rise in crime, he cautioned that it might be a little too early to tell if the policy will affect crime rates.

“You give people an extra hour to drink, and you might see a small rise in crime – but not as much as you think,” he said. “If there is any rise in crime, it will be very small.”

Students seem just as positive about the new policy as bar owners and employees do.

“I heard rumors about the policy long before it was enacted or voted on,” Salvador said. “My roommates and classmates talked all about how excited they were.”

This Saturday will mark a week of the bars being open until 1 a.m. The policy will continue throughout the semester and hopefully lessen confusion for students, locals, employees and tourists in the city of Oxford.

CONTEXTUALIZATION

continued from page 1

meeting Wednesday to discuss the best way to acknowledge the placement of the plaques on campus.

The committee is chaired by Katrina Caldwell, vice chancellor for Diversity and Community Engagement, and Alice Clark, interim vice chancellor for University Relations. Other committee members include faculty members Donald Cole, Jennifer Ford, Jeff Jackson, Amy Lewis, John Neff, Ethel Young-Scurlock and Deetra Wiley, as well as ASB President Dion Kevin.

Kevin, the lone student on the committee, said he is excited about how quickly the university is moving along with the plaque ceremony.

“As the flagship institution of Mississippi, this is an exciting opportunity for Ole Miss to engage the local community and show others our commitment to moving forward while maintaining our identity,” Kevin said. “I hope these efforts to contextualize our campus are unrelenting and prove to be models for our peer institutions across the country.”

Previews of the plaques can be viewed online.

One of the contextualization plaques, titled “The University’s Enslaved Laborers,” will be located near Croft and reads, “The first buildings on this historic circle were constructed using the labor of enslaved African Americans. From July 1846 to the opening of the University on November 6, 1848, local slaveholders received payments



PHOTO BY: LOGAN CONNOR

The university announced it would place new contextualization plaques around campus, including one in front of Longstreet. The plaques are set to be unveiled March 2.

to rent their slaves to the college in order to clear land, create roads, dig wells, and build the original campus structures.”

The last sentence on this piece of recognition will read, “The University of Mississippi today honors the legacy of

these enslaved individuals and acknowledges the injustices under which they lived and labored.”

John Neff, director for Civil War research at Ole Miss and member of the contextualization committee, said he is proud

of the work they are doing.

“Everyone on the committee worked hard to produce an excellent plan,” Neff said. “The chancellor is showing real leadership by seeing the work we proposed be accomplished. These efforts to understand and embrace our complicated past are important steps in making the university open and welcoming to all.”

With the ceremony just more than a month away, the committee says it is still in the planning stages. The Daily Mississippian reached out to members of the committee, who said more details regarding the ceremony will be available next week.

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The Columns Society

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Tuesday, January 30 and
Wednesday, January 31
at 7 pm in Anderson 21.**

Attendance at one of the information sessions is **MANDATORY**.
Your application will not be considered if you fail to attend.

All applications are to be submitted online by
February 2 at 5 pm. Applications can be accessed
via The Columns Society’s Facebook page.

**For questions or additional information,
please contact MarKeicha Dickens
at mdickens@go.olemiss.edu**

WORD ON THE STREET

PHOTOS AND QUOTES COMPILED BY JACQUELINE SCHLICK
STAFF WRITER

As the first week of the semester winds down, The DM asked students, "What are you most looking forward to in this new semester?"



QUAYSHUN SHUMPERT

"Just having structure in my life."

Quayshun Shumpert, a senior music major from Fulton



JAKE MCANALLY

"Getting back into a schedule, and friends."

Jake McAnally, a junior IMC major from Oxford



SARAH KANE

"I'm a part of a sorority, so seeing my sisters again who live all over the U.S. was probably the most exciting thing."

Sarah Kane, a sophomore IMC major from Clinton



BHAVIK SONETA

"I will be expecting to finish by this semester and am looking forward to the university helping me accomplish my goal."

Bhavik Soneta, a graduate student in pharmaceuticals and drug delivery major from India



HARSH NAGARKAR

"I'm checking for internships, and the spring career day is coming up. I'm focusing on projects so I can show them and get internships."

Harsh Nagarkar, a sophomore computer science major from India



MADISON KEIL

"Being back on the Oxford campus."

Madison Keil, a sophomore exercise science major from Brandon

'Famished' feminists share food, conversation

HANNAH WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Every third Friday, university members bring lively conversation to Rebel Market with what they call Famished Feminist Friday.

Faculty, staff and students from across campus participate in these FFF discussions, the brainchild of the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women at the University of Mississippi.

The idea formed when the current director of the Sarah Isom Center, Jaime Harker, was being interviewed for the position at a luncheon with her peers.

"It was a part of her interview, so she was answering questions and things like that, but it was so much fun," said Kate Kellum, AAUW chair and associate director of institutional effectiveness and assistant professor of psychology.

Kellum said she and others felt there was a need to continue these conversations.

"Sometimes we aren't talking about feminist issues," Kellum said. "Sometimes we're talking about class or 'that football game,' but having these places where people have these open conversations are, I think, important."

While so far FFF has mostly been attended by faculty members, it is open to all who wear the feminist label proudly.

"Men come, women come, students, staff, faculty, as long as they're comfortable with the term feminist being applied to them," Kellum said. "Even if people don't know they're feminist, most people are. It's just the belief that men and women should have equal rights, that we should be treated fairly and equally."

Harker said the lunch-time meetings are simply a time to be together as a group.

"Usually we all just chat and talk," Harker said. "You see people, and you meet folks you don't know from across campus. So that's what fun about it – you meet people from places that you don't run into ... people making ideas and plans."

While the AAUW has university women in its very title, Harker said the AAUW is a community-university sponsorship, open to anybody.

"You have to pay for lunch," she said. "That's all you have to do."

The tagline of FFF is that there's no agenda, just lunch, and the group tries to maintain a laid-back feel to each meeting. There is never any set subject, and depending on the size

of each meeting, there could

be several conversations going on at once. The length of time spent together is intentionally unplanned.

Kellum said although she feels the disadvantages

women face are easily visible, these FFF meetings have led to more discussion about those

issues.

"The arc of history will always bend towards goodness eventually. We'll always bend towards equality," Kellum said.

Information about FFF can be found on the AAUW Oxford branch's Facebook page along with the specific date, time and location of each luncheon. While FFF is generally on the third Friday of every month, there is always the possibility of a change in location, and the Facebook page is where any changes are announced. There will be a sign reserving an area for FFF in the back of Rebel Market, past the glass etching of the UM symbol.



ILLUSTRATION BY: EMILY HOFFMAN

Dance company brings Cuban flair to Ford Center

HOLLY HICKS
STAFF WRITER

The Malpaso Dance Company, a premiere dance company from Cuba, will grace the Gertrude C. Ford Center's stage at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

The company, only 5 years old, has gained a notable international profile with its contemporary dance and music. Several students from the Dance on Location, Study Abroad class will be opening for the Malpaso Dance Company.

Jennifer Mizenko, professor of movement and dance at the University of Mississippi, that Osnel Delgado, choreographer and artistic director of Malpaso Dance Company, came to Oxford for a week-long residency in November. During the winter break, her class took a two-week trip to Cuba, where the students danced and learned more about the dance.

"This was an amazing opportunity for the students, and there is now a relationship formed between the University of Mississippi and the Malpaso Dance Company," Mizenko said.

This was the first time this class was offered. The students will be opening the stage with choreography that was designed by Osnel Delgado himself, for which he drew influence by



PHOTO COURTESY: JENNIFER MIZENKO

each student's individual character.

"It was extraordinary to see Osnel Delgado work with the students and see what they were able to bring out in themselves," she said.

Based in Havana, the country's hottest dance company creates material that embodies its culture

and taps into the unparalleled passion that defines Cuban life. Its sparkling programs demonstrate the county's rich dance tradition hoping to leave audience members dazzled.

Delgado founded the Malpaso Dance Company and leads it with executive director Fernando Saez and dancer and co-founder Dai-

leidys Carrazana. The dance company also tours with 11 talented dancers who represent new and old voices in Cuban choreography.


Blake Fulton, University of Mississippi alumnus, has 13 years of dancing experience and said she sees traces of the Cuban culture in dances choreographed almost everywhere.

"To me, dances which are strongly influenced or based on Cuban choreography are the most fun to learn and they are amazing to watch," Fulton said. "The dancing is stunningly creative, and if it were not for this Cuban influence, we would not have as many forms of dancing we use today. Think of salsa, mambo and the danzon – these are all dancing styles that stem from the Cuban culture."

The most recent addition to the Malpaso Dance Company repertory is "Face the Torrent," a new set created by Sonya Tayeh, a New York City-based choreographer. "Face the Torrent" was commissioned and featured for its world premiere at the Los Angeles Music Center in 2017.

In 2017 a full-length commission performance was choreographed by Malpaso Dance Company's own Osnel Delgado. "Dreaming of Lions" featured an original score that was composed by Grammy award-winning, Cuban-American composer Arturo O'Farrill.

Concluding its performance night at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts, the Malpaso Dance Company will hit the road to tour at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.




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COLUMN

Move aside, NFL – there’s a new king in town

JACK BITTERMAN
STAFF WRITER

Think back four years ago to 7:30 p.m. on a Sunday night and picture what your family was doing. I am willing to bet that at least one of your family members is glued to the television watching America’s greatest spectacle, Sunday Night Football.

At that time, football was king in America. With Sunday and Monday Night Football consistently drawing some of the highest viewership ratings in the nation, the NFL owned primetime slots.

Jump forward to Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, a day without Sunday Night Football.

I was sitting on the couch

at 8 p.m. and flipped over to NBC. To my surprise, I couldn’t find Al Michaels or Cris Collinsworth anywhere. I was baffled. It was only after my mom informed me that the broadcast had been cancelled that I stopped my search. My first assumption was that inclement weather or a power outage forced the game’s cancellation. However, a brief Google search showed that the game was cancelled simply because the NFL didn’t think that anyone would watch it. Yikes.

In fairness, the season finale typically ends with two playoff contenders, and while the NFL hadn’t yet decided which teams would play in the Sunday night game, none met the criteria for a high-profile match-

up. It was also New Year’s Eve, which would likely draw fewer eyeballs than usual, being a night where American’s watch historically little TV. Nonetheless, overall NFL viewership has been down across all time slots all season, with Monday Night Football finishing 2017 at its lowest average viewership ever.

Who would have thought that the NFL would ever lack confidence in its ability to draw eyeballs?

That being said, the real issue with the ratings lies not in the fact that they are low but in the inability to agree on why they are so.

Each and every person has his or her own rationale for why the numbers are down, ranging from national anthem protests, to the dangers of the sport itself, even to the market saturation with how much the NFL pushes its content. The one thing that most people seem to overlook, however, is the emergence of new sports markets challenging the stranglehold the NFL once held in terms of market dominance.

On the same New Year’s Eve without Sunday Night Football, the NBA had a slate of eight games that featured close matchups between rivalry teams like the Mavericks and Thunder followed by young talent Lonzo Ball challenging seasoned all-stars like James Harden.

The NBA this past year revolutionized its league in the offseason. Taking it back to a time that many hark as the glory days, super-teams now feature star players (who used to carry teams alone) joined by others

hailed as all-stars to make a run at the title. While the NFL is faltering, the NBA is coming into its own with a cast of established elite players joining forces to take on previously infallible dynasties, and young players like Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons showcasing the talents that will keep people watching for years. For example, Lauri Markkanen is making Bulls basketball, which would otherwise be intolerable, a decent spectacle to watch

while doing homework or have on in the background after a long day.

Now, to be clear, nobody is saying that the NFL is going to evaporate in the near future, but where the NFL is losing viewership, the NBA is coming into its own in a way that resembles the days of Bird and Magic, Jordan and Pippen, and Shaq and Kobe.

There’s soon to be a new king in town – the National Basketball Association.



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ACROSS

1 Parody
6 Titanic's undoing
10 Mil. school
14 Greeting
15 Intestinal sections
16 Like some excuses
17 Thin as ____
18 Retained
19 Pianist Gilels
20 Capital of Manitoba
22 Tether
24 Ambience
25 Resounds
26 Steep bank under a rampart
30 Bust maker
32 Grazing sites
33 ____-bitty
35 Flip over
40 Cooking wine
42 Unpredictable
44 ____ lunch
45 Not acid
47 ____ time (never)
48 Coarse file, angry tone of voice
50 Large soup dish
52 Clown Kelly
56 Henry VIII's sixth
58 Immature insects

DOWN

1 "Saint Joan" playwright
2 Persian fairy
3 Pearl Buck heroine
4 Lena of "Havana"
5 Pertaining to leaves
6 Member of a motorcycle gang
7 Graceful in form
8 Agent
9 Collect
10 First letter of the Hebrew alphabet
11 Grassy plain
12 Miss by ____
13 Strikes out
21 Student
23 Happen

SOLUTION TO 1.25.2018 PUZZLE

A	C	E	D	S	A	R	K	S	T	A	N	D		
A	H	M	E	A	T	I	E	A	R	T	O	O		
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T	E	S	T	Y		H	A	T	S		E	A	T	A

26 Red Muppet
27 Linebacker Junior
28 Wagon
29 Type of D.A.
31 Affirmative votes
34 Bar bills
36 Carson's predecessor
37 Kitchen add-on?
38 Baseball team
39 Pest control brand
41 Artery that feeds the trunk
43 Falls back
46 Wear

49 Bikini tryouts
51 S.A. country
52 Actress Verdugo
53 Men
54 1957 hit for the Bobettes
55 Tennis champ Chris
57 Architectural piers
60 Numbered rds.
61 Days of ____
62 Box
63 Atomizer output
66 Acapulco gold;

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20				21		22	23					
			24			25						
26	27	28	29		30	31						
32				33	34			35	36	37	38	39
40				41		42	43					
44					45	46			47			
				48	49			50	51			
52	53	54	55			56	57					
58						59			60	61	62	63
64					65	66			67			
68					69				70			
71					72				73			

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SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

			3		4		8	9
			9	5	1			2
	7		8			3	1	5
3		2				4	5	
7	6						9	1
	5	1				8		3
2	1	6			3			
8			1	4	9			
5	4		7		6			

HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

EASY

8	3	1	6	2	7	9	4	5
9	2	5	6	4	1	7	3	8
4	7	6	3	8	5	6	1	2
3	6	8	7	9	2	1	5	4
1	9	2	5	3	4	8	6	7
7	5	4	8	1	9	2	6	3
5	1	3	2	9	8	4	7	6
2	4	7	1	5	6	3	8	9
9	8	6	4	7	3	5	2	1

Women's basketball hosts No. 2 MSU on Sunday

MAGGIE CROUCH
STAFF WRITER

Coming off of a 2017 National Championship appearance, Mississippi State women's basketball is off to an undefeated, 20-0 start this season and will travel to Oxford this Sunday to take on Ole Miss.

The Rebels, who lost a close game to Florida State last Sunday and battled at Tennessee on Thursday night, are looking to recover from the tough loss and equally difficult road test against the Volunteers. Head coach Matt Insell has made adjustments throughout the season, hoping to assemble a tournament-ready team and pull out an unexpected win at home against his in-state rival.

Mississippi State's Tearia McCowan, who scored 25 points in the previous meeting between the two teams, will certainly cause problems in the paint for Ole Miss. Facing one of the best players in women's college basketball, the Rebels will have to put up a strong defense to pull out a win.

McCowan, a sophomore from Brenham, Texas, stands at 6-foot-7 and anchors the Bulldogs at center, accumulating more than 350 points this season alone. McCowan also leads the SEC with 13.2 rebounds a game and sits fifth in blocks with two on the year. She is always fighting for the rim and blocked four



COURTESY: OLEMISSSPORTS | PETRE THOMAS

Guard Barbara Johnson shoots a layup around a Mississippi State defender. The last time teams met, the Bulldogs won 76-45.

Rebel shots in the previous matchup, playing 25 total minutes in the game.

Junior Ole Miss guard Madinah Muhammad leads the team statistically, and although she is only 5-foot-8 in comparison to McCowan, it does not stop her from driving to the hoop and making her presence felt. Muhammad averages 17.2 points a game and, as the leading scorer for the Rebels, helps keep them competitive against more prominent

teams. Muhammad scored 14 points in the last meeting with the Bulldogs and played 37 minutes in the loss. Even with Muhammad's high scoring and aggressive on-ball defense, it was not enough for the Rebels to pull out a win as they fell short to the Bulldogs losing 76-45 earlier in January.

For Ole Miss to stay in the game, Insell's team will need to start strong from the get-go. In the last rivalry bout, the Rebels sput-

tered out of the gate but began to find a groove by the end of the first half. The Rebels continued to put up a strong fight through the beginning of the second but ultimately lost control as the Bulldogs pulled away toward the end of the game.

But it will take more than just Muhammad playing her best game; it requires all hands on deck to play hard for 40 minutes and

putting up a solid defense front – especially against McCowan. While only time will tell how the two teams match up, the improvements that Insell has installed for the Rebels since the last game against the Bulldogs could make all the difference.

The game will tip at 1 p.m. Sunday at The Pavilion and be broadcast on ESPNU.

CLASSIFIEDS INFORMATION

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Rebels shoot for 12th victory over Big 12 opponent

BEN MILLER
STAFF WRITER

After an unexpected home win for Ole Miss against Alabama on Tuesday night, the men will head back on the road to take on an undeniably talented, although unpredictable, team in the Texas Longhorns on Saturday afternoon. The game will be part of the “Big 12/SEC Challenge,” in which 10 teams from the SEC will square off against 10 teams from the Big 12, all within a four-hour span.

To date, Texas has been one of the least consistent teams in the Big 12. While its record stands at an impressive 13-7, it has not had consecutive wins or losses since Dec. 22, when its win at Alabama came on the heels of a home win against Tennessee State. At the same time, Ole Miss certainly cannot boast consistency, either. Both between and within games, head coach Andy Kennedy’s team has struggled to find any sort of rhythm or stable form.

The obvious threat for the Rebels will be stopping monster freshman center Mohamed Bamba. Standing at 7 feet tall and wielding a wingspan of 7 feet 9 inches, Bamba is an absolute weapon. His elite athleticism, size and

skillset are a perfect concoction for what many consider to be a lock to be picked in the first round of the NBA draft at the end of this season.

To many, the Harlem, New York, native’s size and talent draw comparisons to Rudy Gobert, as his elite defending has resulted in him totaling 4.4 blocks per game. In comparison, Ole Miss as a team averages 4.9 blocks per game. Mo Bamba is, in large part, the reason the Longhorns sit at 21st in defensive efficiency rating among the entire NCAA. Meanwhile, the Rebels lag behind at a subpar 192nd.

The matchup of big men between these two teams is going to be an utter mismatch on both ends of the floor. While the outside scoring of the Rebels cannot be understated, the lack of production inside is only going to be heightened by the rim presence of Mo Bamba. On the opposite end of the court, the disaster that is Ole Miss’ inside defending will certainly be exploited by the 54 percent shooting numbers of the freshman big, as well as Texas’ leading scorer, junior forward Dylan Osetkowski.

While the underwhelming Rebel 7-footer Dominik Olejniczak attempts to match up with Mo Bamba on the front-



FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Breein Tyree delivers a pass to a teammate during the game against Alabama on Tuesday night. Ole Miss defeated the Crimson Tide 78-66.

court, the athletic guard play of Ole Miss will have to remain in form to limit other scoring options for the Longhorns. This season, perimeter defending, especially early in the shot clock, has been the sole defensive strong point for Ole Miss. Defensively strong guards like Devontae Shuler and Breein Tyree will have their hands

full containing the Longhorns’ high-scoring point guard Kerwin Roach II.

Ole Miss’ inability to produce on the road aside, the matchups featured in this game will make it very difficult for this game to go in favor of the road team. While the guard play is certainly superior for the Rebels, the gap in class is

not significant enough to make up for the massive mismatch between the bigs. The likes of Justas Furmanavicius and Dominik Olejniczak will simply be overwhelmed in what should be expected to be another road loss for Ole Miss before hosting a ranked Auburn squad at home on Tuesday.

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